

EDITORIALS

Critics Answered

This is a story behind a story. Published on Page 1 today is a statement from El Camino College, written as an explanation of the procedures facing a new student upon his enrollment at the college.

However, the story will have another meaning to HERALD readers who followed the series of articles on junior colleges prepared by Staff Writer Vonda Carlton and published here late in December, 1957.

In her series, based on interviews with officials of El Camino and other Southland colleges, Miss Carlton pointed out the fact that an alarming number of students entering college were required to complete classes variously described as "dumb-bell" or "bonehead" classes before being qualified to take up college level work. This was especially true in English where it was found that 45 per cent of the students entering El Camino could not pass the basic English examinations. The cost of the "refresher" classes was placed by one official at \$66,000 a year.

Informed sources on the El Camino campus have told THE HERALD that several high schools in the El Camino district expressed displeasure at disclosure of the figures—taking it as a slap at high school curriculum and teaching methods.

El Camino's "release" today should be read as an answer to that criticism.

Missiles Have Rival

We're used to soaring things these days—jet planes, missiles, satellites. But on a more prosaic and personal level, the gasoline tax rivals them.

For instance, gasoline taxes collected in Arizona in just two days equal the total paid in the whole first year of the tax's enactment, which was 1921 in this state's case. And Arizona is not a special, isolated example.

The same thing happens in Nevada in five days; in Oregon in three days; in Washington in five days; in California in eleven days, and so on. In the 48 states during January will equal the total taxes collected in the first year of their existence.

It's true, of course, that there are many more vehicles in use now than there were in the early '20s, when most states imposed gas taxes. But this only partially explains why gas tax collections from the driving public now run as much as 183 times the former figure.

In the beginning, the tax was usually one cent a gallon or, at the most, two cents. There was no federal tax. Now the states impose taxes of five cents, six cents and more and a three-cent federal tax goes on top of that.

One moral to be drawn from this record is that once government starts taxing a service or a commodity, there's virtually no limit to which it ultimately will not go. Another is that taxes are a far more important factor in setting the cost of many items than we generally realize.

The price of gasoline, excluding taxes, is actually lower today than it was in the '20s, and quality is far better. But, in typical states, the taxes add a third or more to the cost.

Opinions of Others

Shephen Foster's "Old Black Joe" is a piece of immortal Americana, loved and sung by tens of millions of people over the generations. But it has been banned from certain air networks—on the grounds that it contains racially offensive phrases.

Now the New York City Board of Education has taken "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" from its approved textbook list for grade and junior high schools. A great many excellent critics regard Huck Finn as the greatest of all American novels, and practically all put it very high on the short list of genuine classics. The New York Times reports a publisher as saying the book was banned because, like Stephen Foster's wonderful old song, it was held to contain racially offensive material.

literary and musical material which happens to offend anyone. There is only one logical end to such a trend. All one should be banned—whether those offended are white men, yellow men, or black men; Protestants, Catholics, or Jews; businessmen or labor leaders, and so on ad infinitum. Then we can all live in a cultural vacuum comparable to the Dark Ages.—The (Liberal, Kan.) Southwest Daily Times

Power-hungry bureaucrats with control of our tax dollars pour our money down an ever-increasing stream of nonessential federal programs which give them control over vast areas of government activity. Of course, the taxpayer pays the bill.—Oxnard (Calif.) News.

STAR GAZER
By CLAY R. POLLAN

Your Daily Activity Guide According to the Stars

To develop message for Sunday, read words corresponding to numbers of your Zodiac birth sign.

<p>Aries MAR 21-20</p> <p>1. 25-33-59 2. 47-50-52</p> <p>Taurus APR 21-20</p> <p>3. 6-19-22 4. 27-51-78</p> <p>Gemini MAY 21-20</p> <p>5. 11-16-18-46 6. 28-53-43</p> <p>Cancer JUN 21-20</p> <p>7. 9-30-54 8. 62-68-81-85</p> <p>Leo JUL 21-20</p> <p>9. 37-40-45 10. 60-73-75</p> <p>Virgo AUG 21-20</p> <p>11. 39-44-50 12. 69-70-83-84</p>	<p>Libra SEP 21-20</p> <p>13. 24-41-47 14. 65-67-72</p> <p>Scorpio OCT 21-20</p> <p>15. 26-38-49 16. 51-76-79-84</p> <p>Sagittarius NOV 21-20</p> <p>17. 8-14-28 18. 43-56</p> <p>Capricorn DEC 21-20</p> <p>19. 1-15-29-34 20. 42-53-57-62</p> <p>Aquarius JAN 21-20</p> <p>21. 7-10-13-31 22. 55-66</p> <p>Pisces FEB 21-20</p> <p>23. 17-20-36-57 24. 71-74-89-90</p>
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1. Don't 31. Before 61. Through 81. Through
2. Add 32. To 62. Situations 82. You
3. This 33. Upon 63. Them 83. They
4. This 34. You 64. To 84. To
5. Early 35. Step 65. Difficult 85. Difficult
6. No 36. Delay 66. You 86. You
7. Recognize 37. Out 67. To 87. To
8. A 38. With 68. Around 88. Around
9. Morning 39. To 69. Voluntary 89. Voluntary
10. Negative 40. For 70. Changes 90. Changes
11. Excellent 41. Be 71. Of 91. Of
12. Not 42. Some 72. Handle 92. Handle
13. Moods 43. Your 73. And 93. And
14. Desired 44. Make 74. Attention 94. Attention
15. Day 45. Good 75. Romance 95. Romance
16. Day 46. Attracting 76. And 96. And
17. A low 47. Contrary 77. Support 97. Support
18. For 48. People 78. Gossip 98. Gossip
19. Chances 49. The 79. Remain 99. Remain
20. For 50. Some 80. Your 100. Your
21. Open 51. The 81. Your 101. Your
22. Of 52. They 82. And 102. And
23. Time 53. Heed 83. In 103. In
24. May 54. Teach 84. Envious 104. Envious
25. Depend 55. Envelop 85. Locate 105. Locate
26. Swing 56. Home 86. Calm 106. Calm
27. Trouble 57. Lock 87. Warning 107. Warning
28. Observe 58. Influence 88. From 108. From
29. Bring 59. People 89. Experiences 109. Experiences
30. Indicate 60. Times 90. People 110. People

Good Adverse Neutral

Another Crowded Classroom



YOUR PROBLEMS by Ann Landers

Skip the Financial Statement

Dear Ann: Many women marry for money and make no bones about it. In our society this is considered perfectly all right. The world congratulates them for making a "practical" selection. These women tell themselves they were smart to marry a man who could "DO SOMETHING" for them, rather than some good-looking slob with no bank-account.

Yet, when a man applies the same reasoning, he's called a fortune-hunter and other unattractive names. I'm a bachelor with much to offer a woman. No money, you understand—but what marriage needs TWO rich people?

Every female I date twice starts to fish for a financial statement. They expect to be hauled, entertained, fed, flowered and gifted. Yet all THEY do is look pretty and smell sweet.

Frankly, I'm fed up with this dead-heading. If a woman can be calculating in a marriage, why can't a man? —HONEST JOHN

If you're considering selling yourself to the highest bidder, shoot for the top price, Buster, because marrying for money is very hard work.

Both men and women have been known to marry for money and while they can't be put in jail for it, I'll bet they'll gladly settle for jail after a few months of such a life.

In our society the male role is that of protector and provider. The husband is expected to make a home for his wife and she is supposed

to take care of that home, attend to his needs, and help to raise the children.

If you are feeding, hauling, flowering and gifting girls who do nothing but look good and smell sweet, don't complain about dead-heading. It is YOU who is dead in the head, my friend, for wasting time on these flea-brains.

Dear Ann: I go with a boy who is 18. I am 15. He comes to see me almost every night and my folks always yell about it. He leaves at 9:30 on school nights so he can make the bus, but stays later on week ends.

I know we are truly in love because if I don't see him for two days I think I'll die of loneliness. If my folks would only let us get married I'm sure we would be very happy. I could quit school and get a job. I have no interest in my studies and all I do is think about him anyway. Why can't parents realize their children are only young once?—MADDY

Once is enough—when you start to talk about marriage at 15. A girl your age should NOT be seeing a boy every night in the week. No wonder your head is filled with foolish ideas. This steady companionship has knocked your thinking apparatus completely off balance.

Stay in school where you belong and see this boy on Friday and Saturday only. Don't be in such a rush to tangle with diapers, mortgages and furniture payments. Marriage is not all moonlight and roses. It's the

tough business of adjusting to another human being—and it's definitely NOT for kids.

Dear Ann: My husband is in the service and every Sunday I'm invited to my in-laws for supper.

My mother-in-law loves to play cards and she's very good at it. She likes to play for money because she says it's no fun otherwise. Every week she cleans me out of anywhere from \$5 to \$10. I can't afford to lose this much because my allotment check barely covers my living expenses.

She's a wonderful woman in every way and I don't want to insult her or appear to be a poor loser. What shall I do? —BUSTED AND DISGUSTED

Tell your mother-in-law she'll have to cut the stakes down to where the losses are painless or find another fish—mean card-player.

This is no insult. It will simply show her you have more common sense than card sense.

P. S.: If it's gin-rummy you're playing, DON'T knock with nine after half the deck has been played or she'll blitz you every time.

CONFIDENTIALLY: M.A.P.E.: Ask Mom to phone the shop where you bought "Chirper" and find out why he's losing feathers. Maybe he needs a change of diet. I'm no authority on birds. We've had very poor luck with our parakeets.

(Ann Landers will be happy to help you with your problems. Send them to her in care of THE HERALD and enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope. (C) 1958, Field Enterprises, Inc.

THE FREELANCER by Tom Rische

Grass Always Looks Greener

What a difference a few years make.

To the average 15-year-old, the 25-year-old seems middle-aged, the 35-year-old seems elderly, the 45-year-old is old; the 55-year-old is ancient; and the 65-year-old seems truly a wonder of nature.

Most teenagers find this age business very confusing. Anybody who is five years older than they are is quite worldly and even the senior looks like a mature man of the world to the blushing freshman. To get a date with a senior—almost any senior—is stepping way beyond the wildest dreams of many freshmen girls.

A twentyish teacher I know has been guessed at 35 or 40 frequently by her students, and one even wanted to know if she could remember seeing Woodrow Wilson.

To the teenager, one of the most important things in the world is to be older, and if not to be older, to act that way.

On the other hand, people

who pass their 21st birthdays are most likely to want to become younger. When the HERALD's inquiring photographer asked people what age they would most like to be, a majority of them, both teenagers and adults, mentioned the ages of 20 or 21.

The teenagers think the best part of his life is still ahead of him, while a sizeable number of adults seem to think that the best time of their lives is behind them.

The teenager is eager to take on new responsibilities in an adult world, while a lot of adults would trade places with the teenager.

It's probably a case of the grass always looking greener on the other side of the fence.

In an effort to hurry the appearance of time, lots of teenagers don lipstick or weird make-ups and try to assume that sophisticated look, which may include smoking, drinking, and driving a car. The result may be funny or pathetic to the adult onlooker, but it's part of a

trial and error process by which young minds grow older.

There's something even funnier (or is it more pathetic?) about older people who try to recapture what time has already ravaged, by dressing too young or acting like a teenager.

A teenager can be forgiven for trying not to act his age, but an adult should know better than to try to duck his. The funny part of the spectacle of adults trying to act younger is that they really don't fool many people.

Most of them are about as successful as Jack Benny in lying about their ages. Benny, who is 64, doesn't really expect anybody to believe he is 39, but claims his youth only to be funny.

And even he can't stay the pendulum of time forever. He's announced that he'll be 40 next month.

The best time of everybody's life should be whatever age he happens to be, because you can always be young at heart.

FROM OUR MAILBOX By Our Readers

Editorials and Opossums

Likes Editorials
Editor, Torrance Herald,
I feel that I should write a few lines to you, for we always read your editorials, and sure enjoy them. You do help us all on many matters.

We have lived very near this town for many years (35) and have lived here now for many.

Many oldtimers around here complain of the many things we need, yet they never speak of it in the proper places.

Lately, it seems, we have no benches at many corners where we have to stand quite a long time for buses. And, when we go to shop, we get very tired and need to rest. It seems a few years ago, there were more seats where we could rest, but they have been taken away.

There are many of us that do not drive a car, and walking the few blocks to town is hard on us, although we like to get the exercise. After the shopping, though, we are tired and need to rest awhile. It is not only with us older folks, but many others also.

Many grumble and do nothing, but ask one person to do it all. When they are called on to do their share, they don't want to be bothered. This has happened in many cases. But truly, when I read the editorials, I sure thank those who help us all understand. For as long as a person is honest and trustworthy, there need be no fear to speak the right.

READER
Torrance.

Cats, Watch Out!
Editor, HERALD:

I agree heartily with the people who thought that cats in Torrance ought to be con-

trolled. I'd go one step farther. I'd say they ought to be outlawed.

The cats in our neighborhood nearly drive us crazy. They dig up our flower beds, rummage through our garbage cans, and yowl at night. I've tried to talk to their owners, but all I get is fights.

If somebody doesn't do something, I'm going to get out my shotgun and settle the problem my way. It may not be legal, but it's one way to get action.

TIRED OF YOWLING

Turning 'ie Tables

Editor, Torrance Herald:
This happened in Torrance on Friday...

At 9 a.m., Friday morning, an opossum walked along an oil field fence on Crenshaw Blvd. Very soon after 9 a.m., a man leveled a gun on the opossum and shot him. Several questions come to mind.

1. Why did the man shoot the opossum?
2. Why, if it was necessary to shoot the opossum, did the man shoot him with an air gun instead of a weapon which would do the job? A gun of this nature only wounds an animal of this type and size—and dying is torture.

3. Why did the man, and a group of his friends, stand by for 15 or 20 minutes between shots and watch the animal slowly die?
4. What matter of man bullies animals to their death? It would be just as easy to do it to a fellow man—but there is a penalty in connection with that.

The answer—there is no answer I suppose. If you want to you can't shoot the man. Perhaps with a little hard

THE SQUIREL CAGE by Reid Bundy

Streets Scare Race Driver

Veteran Race Driver Johnny Parsons may have a good point when he says he would rather drive a car on the race track than on a city street.

Johnny explains that on a race track all you have to contend with is one-way traffic, there are no clunkers, no traffic signals to watch for, no drunks coming in from side roads or across the double line, no speed limits except those imposed by your nerve, and every driver is a skilled one.

He may be right, but I'll still take my chances on the street.

Did you ever call someone on the telephone, and then start hearing music? It happens to me every day or so. Finally found out the secret—when I call someone in an office equipped with "hold-button" telephones, the signals of KNX whose transmitter is just around the corner, start leaking through whenever the party at the other end puts you on "hold."

I wouldn't complain for the world because it gives you something to listen to while the party on the other end of

the line is busy looking up some bit of information or trying to find the person called. When your line is opened again, the music disappears. It's something that might be developed further with piped-in music for the lulls.

Women at various playgrounds in the area conduct "slim and trim" classes—class designed to reshape milady into her own sylph-

like silhouette. One director we know is quietly planning to form a similar class for men, and has already picked out a name for it: "The lean and mean" class.

We know a fellow who bet and give you odds that when the Russians get to the moon with one of their Sputniks, they will find a State Department official there trying to organize a foreign aid program.

and I Quote...

"Women can make a dollar go farther—they'll drive clear across town to spend it."—Henry Morgan.

"A juvenile delinquent's best friends are his parents, if he can find them home."—Herbert V. Prochnow.

"Russian housewives like to discuss the latest Red scientific achievements—as they scrub their clothes in the Volga!"—Tommy Leonetti.

work, it would be possible to teach opossums to handle guns. Wouldn't it be a wonderful sight to me and a terrible shock to the tormentors of opossums if opossums were armed with guns and at leisure picked off a man?

Manhattan Beach —F.B.P.

Traffic Problems

Editor, Torrance Herald:

Your cooperation in our efforts to control the traffic problem in California during the December holidays is sincerely appreciated. The professional enforcement program against the drinking driver was very ably supported by the extensive public information program conducted by the news media and public support organizations of this state.

Provisional reports indicate 27 persons were killed in traffic over the two 30-hour holiday periods, 12 at Christmas and 15 at New Years. These figures represent a decrease of 18.1 per cent for the two periods, 25.0 per cent for Christmas, and 11.7 per cent for New Years compared to the same period in 1956. California did not lead the nation in the number of traffic deaths during either of the holidays although vehicle registrations indicate we had the greatest volume of traffic on our highways of any state in the Union.

Please convey to your personnel our thanks for the able assistance given in support of our enforcement program during the past year.

B. R. CALDWELL,
Commissioner, CHP

SURVIVAL IS NOT ENOUGH!

JOIN THE MARCH OF DIMES

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